

Unscrupulous employers in this country are luring unskilled foreign workers with the promise of riches—that they can earn 10 times as much or more if they come to work in America. The foreign workers, most of whom come from impoverished backgrounds, are charged fees—sometimes thousands of dollars—to secure these jobs. To cover the upfront expenses many sell their land, their homes, or take out high interest loans. They risk everything with the dream of earning enough money to provide for a better life for themselves and their families.

The reality for these workers stands in stark contrast to the riches and opportunity that was promised. Employers often refuse to pay the workers overtime or alternatively refuse to schedule them for full-time work. They work in unsafe conditions, and are forced to live in squalor. Living in fear and with no ability to speak out about the abuses, workers are trapped in virtual involuntary servitude under sweatshop working conditions, indebted by usurious recruitment fees, paid inadequate wages and too often cheated out of what little they are owed.

The Indentured Servitude Abolition Act of 2007 simply demands that these foreign workers be treated with the respect and dignity that they deserve. The Act requires that the working conditions promised are in fact the working conditions that will exist. We can no longer allow employers to treat foreign workers as commodities—we have a responsibility to ensure that every individual working and living in this country is afforded labor protections and adequate legal safeguards.

NEED-BASED EDUCATIONAL AID ACT OF 2007

HON. LAMAR SMITH
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to join the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. DELAHUNT in introducing the “Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2007.”

Beginning in the mid-1950s, a number of private colleges and universities agreed to award financial aid solely on the basis of demonstrated need. These schools also agreed to use common criteria to assess each student's financial need and to give the same financial aid award to students admitted to more than one member of that group of schools. From the 1950s to the late 1980s, the practice continued uncontested.

In 1989, the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice brought suit against 9 of the colleges that engaged in this practice. After extensive litigation, the parties entered into a consent decree in 1991 that all but ended the practice. In 1992, Congress passed the first exemption to the antitrust laws for these colleges as part of the Higher Education Amendments of 1992. That temporary exemption codified the settlement and allowed agreements to provide aid on the basis of need only, to use common criteria, to use a common financial aid application form, and to allow the exchange of students' financial information through a third party. It also prohibited agreements on awards to specific students.

In 1994, Congress extended this exemption as part of the Improving America's Schools Act. Congress has extended the exemption twice since 1994—in 1997 and 2001. As of May 2006, twenty-eight schools utilized this antitrust exemption. This exemption expires on September 30, 2008.

I believe the current exemption makes sense, and to my knowledge there have been no complaints about it. A recent GAO study of the exemption found there has been no abuse of the exemption and stated that there has not been an increase in the price of college as a result of the exemption. The Antitrust Modernization Commission, which is due to release its final report next week, studied this exemption and found that it provides “limited immunity for limited conduct,” that is, it is narrowly tailored to meet its goals of promoting access to need-based financial aid.

This bill would make the exemption passed in 1992, 1994, 1997, and 2001 permanent. It would not make any change to the substance of the exemption.

The need-based financial aid system serves worthy goals that the antitrust laws do not adequately address, namely, making financial aid available to the broadest number of students solely on the basis of demonstrated need. No student who is otherwise qualified should be denied the opportunity to go to one of these schools because of the limited financial means of his or her family. This bill helps protect need-based aid and need-blind admissions.

The last time a permanent extension of this antitrust exemption was considered by the House it passed by a vote of 414 to 0. I urge my colleagues to support this bill as well.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO RE-AUTHORIZE THE NEW JERSEY COASTAL HERITAGE TRAIL ROUTE

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail incorporates the very best of what the great State of New Jersey has to offer the rest of the Nation. Established by Congress in 1988, the Trail unifies New Jersey's many scenic points of interest. These points of interest include a wealth of environmental, historic, maritime and recreational sights found along New Jersey's coastline, stretching 300 miles from Perth Amboy in the north, Cape May in the extreme southern tip of the State and Deepwater to the west.

The Trail's area includes three National Wildlife Refuges, four tributaries of a Wild and Scenic River system, a Civil War fort and National cemetery, several lighthouses, historic homes, and other sites tied to southern New Jersey's maritime history. Through a network of themes and destinations, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail connects people with places of historic, recreational, environmental and maritime interest.

One exciting aspect of the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route is its focus on maritime history. There is a rich story to be told about the industries once sustained by the

Delaware Bay, such as whaling, shipbuilding, oystering and crabbing. While we often define our Nation's history through military or political milestones, the Trail will serve to remind visitors that maritime-dependent commerce was a major factor in the growth of the United States.

“Eco-tourism” along the Coastal Heritage Trail has proven to be a huge success. There is an abundant variety of natural habitats and species to be found on the Trail. Whale and dolphin watching have become extremely popular, and bird lovers from throughout the country, and in fact around the world, are realizing what Southern New Jersey residents have known all along: our region is unmatched for observing migratory birds, ospreys and bald eagles.

Today, with the support of the entire New Jersey delegation, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route. This legislation would extend the authorization of the Trail to provide additional funding over 4 years to continue the work began in 1988.

The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail has helped New Jersey residents develop pride, awareness, experience with, and understanding of our coastal resources and its history. This reauthorization will allow the Trail to continue and flourish.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MAYOR GEORGE H. WHITEHURST

HON. JEFF MILLER
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the public service and outstanding achievements of George H. Whitehurst upon his retirement as Mayor of the city of Crestview, Florida.

George Whitehurst moved to Crestview in 1954, where shortly after, he opened the Whitehurst Funeral Home. In 1961, he entered the political arena as Mayor for 12 years. His passion for leadership and continuing love for the community led Mr. Whitehurst to resume his political career as Mayor in 1995.

During his tenure as Mayor, George Whitehurst advocated for increased public safety and economic development. To promote safety and deter crime, Mr. Whitehurst was at the forefront of instituting 2 police substations and a police/fire sub-station. He lobbied for the acceleration of a high rise security lighting installation at Interstate 10 and State Road 85 and the development of an emergency transportation corridor, consisting of a three-mile segment of roadway to provide an alternate emergency evacuation route in times of natural disaster. Under his leadership, a cemetery was restored, a Veterans Memorial Park constructed, and the foundation for the Crestview Library and Community Center established. Mayor Whitehurst launched a downtown revitalization effort, including: new sidewalks, pedestrian crosswalks, shade trees, increased parking, period street lighting, and park benches. There is no doubt in my mind that Crestview is better off because of this man.

For 24 years, Mayor Whitehurst has proudly served Northwest Florida as Mayor of the Hub City with passion and determination. He is a dedicated and loving husband, father, and grandfather. With his wife Annelle by his side, he has earned the respect and support of those around him. This weekend we celebrate his retirement and tireless efforts of giving back to the community. The impact Mayor Whitehurst has made on the city will leave a lasting impression, and Crestview will be forever grateful for his service and truly honored to call him one of her own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the achievements of Mayor George H. Whitehurst and his exemplary service to the city of Crestview, Florida—"the gateway to the Emerald Coast."

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN ANGELA M. CARSTEN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Captain Angela M. Carsten, an officer in the United States Air Force, who is retiring after 20 years of distinguished service.

I have had the personal pleasure of knowing Angie since she came to DLI in 2004 and I know I speak for the greater DLI community in expressing our best wishes for her continued success.

Throughout her career, both as an enlisted Air Force Airman and as an officer, Captain Carsten has personified the Air Force values of duty, honor, integrity and selfless service. As Project Manager and Associate Dean of the Defense Language Institute's Emerging Languages Task Force, many of us on Capitol Hill have been the beneficiaries of her communication talents as well as her broad depth of knowledge concerning Low-Density High-Demand languages that are critical to our nation's security in the Global War on Terrorism.

Captain Carsten's military service began in 1987, with tours of duty at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, and Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Captain Carsten provided communications and computer support for the local airbases. In 1999, Captain Carsten was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the United States Air Force through Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB in Alabama. From 1999 to 2003, Captain Carsten served in a variety of assignments at Hill AFB, Utah.

Since 2004, she has been an outstanding advocate for the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, located in Monterey, California, the Congressional district I am proud to represent. As Associate Dean of the Defense Language Institute's Emerging Languages Task Force, she has briefed the BRAC Committee, the House Defense Appropriations Committee, HPSCI and HASC Members, numerous Professional Staff of the National Security committees, as well as Service Secretaries, foreign dignitaries, and Department of Defense VIPs.

Most recently, as the Associate Dean, Captain Carsten authored a Concept of Operations to build a surge capability for over nine-

teen Immediate Investment and Stronghold languages to augment the current DLI curriculum.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I thank Captain Carsten for her commitment, sacrifice, and contribution to our National Security throughout these 20 years.

HONORING OMEGA
ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Omega Environmental Technologies company. In today's corporate world, they have distinguished themselves as a thriving business that is passionate about helping others.

An eighteen year old company, Omega Environmental Technologies was built from the ground up to become a multi-million dollar corporation. Founded in 1989 in Texas, the company has grown to include a worldwide customer base for their distribution of automobile air conditioner parts. Although they routinely export A/C components to 75 countries, around 75 percent of their products come from the U.S. This helps to support the American economy and has provided a welcome boost to the Dallas/Fort Worth area marketplace. Using a 65,000 square foot warehouse, the business has grown 50 percent in the last 3 years. It is no surprise that Omega Environmental Technologies has been recognized twice as one of the 100 fastest growing companies in D/FW.

Although Omega Environment Technologies serves as a model to those in the business community, the life story and achievement of the company's founder and President, Grace Davis, is an example that all of us would do well to study. Born and educated in Panama, Ms. Davis strived for excellence early on, graduating from college after studying business. After time spent in the finance industry, she looked for a new challenge and attempted to get a job in the banking world. No matter her success or qualifications, Ms. Davis found only disappointment as employer after employer offered her only secretary jobs. In need of a paycheck, she eventually accepted a secretary position only to discover the grim truth of her circumstances later on. After hearing the commercial needs of clients who called the office, she approached her supervisor with a plan to improve their international sales. Regardless of her initiative, she was ignored and told to remember her place as a secretary. Grace Davis went on to leave that company and start her own international sales company. As one of her employees put it, she proved so trustworthy and talented a saleswoman that a company grew up around her.

Today, she serves as a proud role model for minority women who are looking to succeed in life and the business world. For her part, she has made it a point never to discriminate against potential employees because of their nationality or primary language. Omega Environmental Technologies currently employs 14 nationalities with several of them political refugees. They also rely on Catholic Charities as a primary source for employee recruitment

and last year received the accomplishment of being a certified Minority Company.

I could not be more proud that Omega Environmental Technologies chooses to call the Dallas/Fort Worth area home, and I congratulate them on receiving this prestigious award.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN HUNGARIAN FEDERATION OF CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Hungarian Federation of Cleveland, and Mr. John Juhasz, for their many years of service to the Hungarian-American community.

The Federation, since its founding in 1906, has been a symbol of the strong relationship between America and Hungary, a relationship that has existed since the birth of the American nation. Before former Hussar Officer Colonel Commandant Mihaly Kovats died fighting for a free America in the Battle of Charleston, South Carolina in 1779, he sent a letter to Benjamin Franklin with the words: "Fidelissimus ad Mortem", which means Faithful Unto Death. This expression has become the motto of this great organization.

For more than one hundred years the American Hungarian Federation has worked to unite and to support Americans of Hungarian origin in the United States, regardless of political, religious, or other affiliation. It has also been a strong supporter of freedom both at home and abroad. They played an integral role in providing aid for a Hungarian people in need after World War II, as well as efforts to aid refugees of The Revolution of 1956.

Under the faithful stewardship of President John Juhasz, The American Hungarian Federation continues to fulfill their mission by advocating for Hungarian causes and providing information to second and third generation Hungarian Americans. Additionally, the Federation sets an example for all Americans, who have a love for their heritage and a desire to help their people.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring John Juhasz and the American Hungarian Federation of Cleveland for their contribution to the rich cultural heritage of Northeast Ohio. May the Hungarian community continue to thrive under their leadership.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDI D. STEELE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Judi Steele, a dedicated educator, consultant, and advisor whose outstanding work in the classroom and throughout the community has motivated the Clark County School District to name an elementary school in her honor.

Judi began her distinguished career as an educator in 1965 when she taught 5th and 6th grade at P.S. 171 in East Harlem, New York.